

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-19 remain pending in the present application. Claim 12 is the only independent claim and it includes limitations not disclosed by, nor made obvious in view of, the prior art. For example, claim 12 recites that “each stake includes an elongated rod, wherein the elongated rod of each stake is fixedly attached to a single elongated flexible sheet”.

Sinning does not disclose such a structure. In Sinning, the fabric covering 7 is “fastened to the bars 2, 3, 4 and 5”. See Sinning at line 74. These bars are not part of an “elongated rod” that is included in a stake. Sinning’s “stakes” are argued in the Office Action to be the “posts 1” of Sinning’s Fig. 1. See Office Action at page 3. It is clear from Sinning’s text and drawings that the bars are transverse to the posts. Sinning teaches away from the present invention in that the sheet of fabric is completely unattached to the posts.

Another limitation in claim 12 not disclosed by Sinning is that “each stake is suitable for being vertically supported by ground by manually driving a bottom end of each stake’s elongated rod into the ground”. Sinning’s posts are mounted to horizontal bars so they are unsuitable for manually driving into the ground. The “pointed rods 8” of Sinning (referred to at line 76) are not part of the “elongated rods” of the posts, but are separate items attached to the posts by Sinning’s bars 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-279-5098.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Charles J. Kulas/
Charles J. Kulas
Reg. No. 35,809
Tel: 415-279-5098